

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

9th March 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

As Association Chairmen and Councillors we represent the voluntary party and the frontline of the Conservative Party's electoral efforts. A large number of local voters, activists and party members have made clear to us that they want us to stand up and represent their views on Brexit. This is of particular importance as local elections get closer.

We know that the Conservative Party's principles and policies represent the national interest. Defending and winning our target constituencies is key to keeping Jeremy Corbyn out of Downing Street. Grassroots Conservatives play a crucial role in local campaigns, on the doorsteps, and in communicating the Conservative message.

This is why we fear that handling Brexit badly will undo our hard work. Endorsing a bad deal or delaying Brexit would be a devastating blow to activists' morale and voters' faith in mainstream politics. The British public fears that if a Brexit date is removed from the European Union (Withdrawal) Act of 2018, then this House of Commons will never put it back. Bad feeling will spill over into local elections on 2nd May and the next General Election.

Our party made solemn undertakings to deliver Brexit. Our MPs were elected on this Manifesto in 2017 which promised the UK would take back control over borders, laws and money. For this reason, the British public sees our Party as the Brexit party.

Conservative voters are watching the Brexit debate. They do not fear a no deal exit. They just want Brexit delivered. Most believe the risk of short-term economic disruption is dwarfed by the threat of long-term political trauma. They are aware that the British Government has made preparations and that no deal temporary status quo arrangements are already agreed in areas like financial services, the Common Transit Convention, energy interconnections, haulage, data transfers, cross-border rail, aviation, visa-free travel and others besides. Contrary to our party's promises on returning control over money they fear that during an 'Implementation Period' the Commission would force MPs to present the British public with growing financial obligations to the EU, a restricted electricity Capacity Market, reduced tax relief on London's service economy, and limited third country trade. During such a period the UK would have no say in EU institutions.

In 2016 the British people mandated our Government to leave the EU, take back control and deliver a new relationship with our EU partners. They expect to see that delivered and they expect the Conservative party to deliver it. A bad deal or a delay will look to all intents and purposes as a promise broken. The prospect of informing the voting public that the UK will take instructions from the very EU institutions that they voted to leave is frightening.

Corbyn's Labour Party seek to overturn the 2016 result by advocating a second referendum. As we seek to prevent the calamity that would be a Corbyn led Labour Party making progress in the local elections, we simply must be able to demonstrate that it is the Conservative Party that delivers on the

will of the people. We therefore urge our Government and MPs to please keep faith with the voting public, our activists and our members.

We must leave the European Union on 29th March 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Bill Armer, Chairman of Huddersfield Conservative Association	Elizabeth Foster, Chairman of Twickenham Conservative Association	Cllr Graham Newman, Suffolk Coastal Conservative Association
Rob Bailey, Chairman of Chester Conservative Association	Cllr Craig Fotheringham, Chairman of Angus Conservative and Unionist Association	Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds, Chairman of North West Norfolk Conservative Association
Greig Baker, Chairman of Canterbury Conservative Association	Cllr Moira Gibson, Leader of Surrey Heath Council	Cllr Tony Owen, Chairman of Orpington Conservative Association
Cllr John Beesley, Leader of Bournemouth Council	Dinah Glover, London East Area Chairman and Chairman of Bethnal Green and Bow Conservative Association	Cllr Roger Patterson, Chairman of Gainsborough Constituency conservative Association
Cllr Steve Bell CBE, Former Chairman of the National Conservative Convention and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group	Cllr David Goldson, Chairman of South Norfolk Conservative Association	Cllr Mike Payne, Chairman of Halifax Conservative Association
Cllr James Binns, Chairman of New Forest East Conservative Association	Cllr Christine Gray, Chairman of Tatton Conservative Association	Cllr Bob Perry, Chairman of Hornchurch and Upminster Conservative Association
Cllr Barry Bond, Chairman of South Staffordshire Conservative Association	Thor Halland, Chairman of Leyton and Wanstead Conservative Association	Don Porter CBE, Former Chairman of the National Conservative Convention
Chris Boutle, Chairman of Bracknell Conservative Association	Brian Hamill, Former National Treasurer of the Conservative Party	Attic Rahman, Chairman of East Ham Conservative Association
Cllr Ian Bowyer, Conservative Group Leader for Plymouth City Council	Cllr Helen Harrison, Chairman of Corby and East Northants Conservative Association	Aidan Ruff, Chairman of Northumberland Conservative Association
Christopher Chapman, Deputy Chairman Political of Southend West Conservative Association	Garry Heath, Chairman of Wycombe Conservative Association	Cllr David Renard, Leader Swindon Council
Cllr Susie Charles, Chairman of Lancaster and Fleetwood Conservative Association	Peter Hennessy, Chairman of Rayleigh and Wickford Constituency Conservative Association	Cllr Chris Schofield, Chairman of North Shropshire Conservative Association

James Clark, Chairman of Lewisham and Deptford Conservative Association	Fr Martin Hislop, Chairman of London South Area	Luke Senior, Chairman of Morley and Outwood Conservative Association
Cllr Scott Seaman Digby Collins, Chairman of Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner Conservative Association	Tom Huxley, Chairman of Birmingham Hall Green Conservative Association	Tamkeen Shaikh, Chairman of Barking Conservative Association
Cllr Paul Cooper, Acting Chairman and Deputy Chairman Political for Faversham and Mid Kent	Cllr Mark Jenkinson, Chairman of Workington Conservative Association	Cllr Simon Robinson, Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Mark Crane, Leader of Selby District Council	Ian Jones, Chairman of Maldon Conservative Association	Jane Slater, Chairman of Lewes Conservative Association
Cllr Alexander Curtis, Chairman of Hertford and Stortford Conservative Association	Cllr John Lamb, Leader Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	Cllr Andy Smith, Chairman of Suffolk Coastal Conservative Association
Cllr David Dadds, Chairman of Basildon and Billericay Conservative Association	Cllr Darius Laws, Leader of Colchester Borough Council	Cllr Paul Snape, Cannock Chase Conservative Group Leader
Kevin Daley, Chairman of Salisbury Conservative Association	Philip Loynes, Chairman of Chorley Conservative Association	Alasdair Stewart, Chairman of Croydon Conservative Federation
Bob Davidson, Chairman of South East Cornwall Conservative Association	Cllr Gary Markwell, Leader of Arundel and Courtwick Council	Judith Sutting, Southend West Conservative Association
Patrick Duffy, Chairman of South West Wiltshire Conservative Association	Jess McMahon, Chairman of Sittingbourne and Sheppey Conservative Association	Jonathan Swift, Chairman of Wyre Forest Conservative Association
Mark Evans, Chairman of North West Leicestershire Conservative Association	Cllr Andy Mercer, Chairman of Wellingborough Conservative Association	Andrea Thorpe, Chairman of Maidstone and The Weald Conservative Association
Cllr Mike Fairhurst, Chairman Havant Conservative Association	Geoff Mitchell, Chairman of Carlisle Conservative Association	Cllr Russell Tilson, Chairman of Folkestone and Hythe Conservative Association
Cllr Andrew Baggott, Leader of Basildon Borough Council	Cllr Charles Munford, Chairman of Castle Point Conservative Association	Judy Tottey, Chairman of Plymouth Sutton and Devonport Conservative Association

Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald,
Chairman of Peterborough
Conservative Association and
Deputy Leader of Peterborough
City Council

Cllr Melanie Whitehand,
Chairman of Woking
Conservative Association

Cllr Phil Twiss, Chairman of
Tiverton and Honiton
Conservative Association

Cllr Neil Bannister, Chairman
of South Leicestershire
Conservative Association

Ed McGuinness, Chairman of
Islington Conservative
Federation